Office of Science

The Protection of Safeguards and Security Interests

http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/er-80/security

The purpose of the Office of Science (SC) Safeguards and Security program is to ensure appropriate levels of protection against unauthorized access, theft, diversion, loss of custody, or destruction of Department of Energy (DOE) assets and hostile acts that may cause adverse impacts on fundamental science, national security or the health and safety of DOE and contractor employees, the public or the environment. Safeguards and security requirements are tailored for all Office of Science facilities nationwide, which include multi-program and single purpose laboratories. The program extends from physical protection of employees and facilities to highly technical areas of computer security. Protection policies, procedures, and operations at SC sites are equivalent to or greater than the level of security at comparable university research facilities or private sector/commercial industrial facilities.

The Opportunity: The Safeguards and Security Program has a unique opportunity to support continued U.S. leadership and international collaborations in science and technology. Recent security-related events in the U.S. and overseas have raised serious concerns about protection of scientific and technological information and complicate realizing this opportunity. In carrying out its program, the Office of Science strives to achieve an appropriate balance between open scientific communication and protection of national security interests.

The Challenge: Significant challenges exist in the protection of information and the upgrading of aging physical security systems. The ever-increasing advances and reliance on computer technologies can create vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities come in the form of denial of services and the loss of integrity of scientific data. Keeping ahead of hacker threats will be a continuing challenge. Computer security counter measures must keep up with advancements in technology. Additionally, concerns over aging facilities present challenges in technical and physical protection of high cost equipment and systems. The upgrading of these systems (i.e. smart cards, etc.) is very costly.

FY 2002 Investment Plan: The Safeguards and Security Program consists of several integrated topical areas and the primary focus of each is as follows:

- Protective Forces provide guard services to meet site objectives for security posture and emergency notifications.
- Security Systems provide intuition detection, barriers, and access controls for facilities.
- Cyber Security includes unclassified and classified computer infrastructure, hardware and software.
- Program management supports policy oversight and administration, planning, training, development, and integration of security program.

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- Personnel Security provides security awareness, access authorizations and visitor controls.
- Material Control and Accountability provides required inventories for special nuclear material.

In FY 2002 SC will continue forward with the development and integration of its safeguards and security programs. The SC effort will:

- Provide laboratories and research facilities with adequate safeguards and security measures.
- Provide tailored levels of protection in accordance with potential risks.
- Correct any identified safeguards and security inadequacies.
- Anticipate evolving threats and provide protective measures.
- Maintain a balance between security and SC scientific research mission.

The Benefits: The benefits of an effective safeguards and security program include providing the public confidence that the taxpayer assets are appropriately protected, a safe work place for employees, adequate protection of user facility operations and scientific research data, and a security climate supportive of international collaborations and leading edge scientific projects.